

AWSC REPORT MAY 25-27 2012

Area Alateen Coordinator

In January, I attended my handover meeting with the outgoing coordinator. We met over brunch in Barrie. She has been and continues to be such a great support to me and her wisdom regarding Alateen in Ontario South is unending.

I attended my first WSO Alateen coordinator's conference call. It lasted about one hour and was extremely informative. There were 27 Alateen coordinators from many areas. We all are new at the position and continue to make contact through e-communities.

Part of the Alateen coordinator's position is to handle Alateen public outreach. These inquiries go through WSO and are passed on to me. In all the cases so far, WSO mails a professional package to those making the inquiry. WSO emails the contact, which can be anywhere in Ontario South (or Quebec it seems). I have forwarded the request to the DR in that city/town for further follow up OR to an Alateen Sponsor in that city or town. There have been 8 such requests since January. It appears that there are not enough Alateen meetings in our Area to suggest the Alateen can actually go to an Alateen meeting in these locations. It is being suggested that if a teen is being affected by some one else's drinking they may try Al-Anon.

The members of the Ontario South Alateen Advisory Committee (OSAAC) held their first meeting of this year at ORC March 17th 2012. The OSAAC co-chair was present to chair the meeting. There was excellent Alateen attendance at the meeting. During the discussion there was a group conscience taken with all those Alateen present that they would really like to see a Unity Conference this year! Promptly 7 Alateen signed up to help plan the Unity conference and /or help any way they can. Presently there is no bid for Unity this year. There was No Unity last year. Bids are usually presented and accepted before Trillium (3rd week in June). The bid is timed this way to allow SAMS, Districts and Alateen to have some planning meetings at Trillium, and through the summer, for Unity in the fall. For those considering a bid, OSAAC has a start up float to get things started. Please consider sharing this project with another District, perhaps one that doesn't have Alateen YET! Proposals (bids) can be sent to me and I will forward them onto the OSAAC members, or to the OSAAC Chairperson directly. OSAAC is the Alateen voice at the Area level, their committee oversees Alateen events, initiatives and speaks on behalf of the Alateen membership. They hold service meetings and information sessions at conferences. They are there to assist any Alateen member or group. I am the liaison between the OSAAC and the Area executive. The first planning meeting of this year was held in Oshawa April 28/12. The meeting started promptly at 10 am and ended on time at 3pm. So many items were discussed and plans are in the works for the Unity conference to make a comeback. Alateen in Ontario South really needs (wants) a Unity Conference.

The bank account for OSAAC is now open and the Alateen money which the Area has kindly been holding for them has been transferred as per the Assembly vote last November. This is important to the survival of Alateen in Ontario South. OSAAC can now **accept** personal, group and district donations to this account. Any donation can be sent directly to myself (address on the back of Open lines). One of the Alateen Advisors and I are presently signing officers on this account.

Districts and Groups please consider Alateen by focusing resources on how we can ALL support Alateen: Attend open Alateen meetings at conferences such as Trillium, Spaghetti Dinner (Whitby) Meet and Greet Al-Anon Day District 16 April 29th in Oakville etc.

Be willing to do some public outreach service on behalf of Alateen. (perhaps Alateen literature on your literature table in your home group) New Al-Anon members can take this literature home to their children!

Support OSAAC and Its events, such as the Unity Conference.

I attended an Alateen Focused Workshop April 29th /12 in Oakville, (hosted by District 16) from 1 to 4 for a great afternoon ALL about Alateen. Al-Anon and AA members were invited to bring their teens so they could meet Alateen members, experience a mock Alateen meeting and hear speakers. Adult members had the opportunity to learn what it takes to be a SAM (Supportive Al-Anon Member) and how to become certified. I handed out 25 packages to become a certified SAM. This day may very well become an annual event in District 16! BRAVO. Districts interested in holding an Alateen Day (workshop) such as this, could perhaps contact the District Rep.

The AAPP Coordinator has been busy certifying and recertifying all of our precious SAM volunteers. I received my up dated contact list. I had struggled with email communication with some SAMS before this, because their email address had changed and I didn't have the new one. Hopefully I have a contact number and email for all our SAMs. I would like to help all of our Area SAMs communicate with one another if they would like too. In the future, perhaps we could schedule a time at Trillium in the program for such a workshop (get together)

The number ONE request I have had since becoming Coordinator in January is for Alateen speakers, to attend roundups, Al-Anon days, anniversaries, and conventions. At this point I do not have a list of speakers and our past Area Alateen Coordinator did not either. I see the need to develop a process in this regard, or at least have the discussion. Alateen safety is the responsibility of the ENTIRE Area, not just the Coordinator. Today (In my 5 minute presentation) I present the Area literature speaker form to the AWSC in hopes they take this back to their Alateen groups and SAM volunteers to have those Alateen wishing to share fill in the form with particulars and return it to the LDC (Literature Distribution Centre). In the meantime, when looking for an Alateen speaker I suggest contacting the SAM or District Rep where you know there is Alateen.

Surprisingly, I don't know how many SAMS are actually attached to a group, how many groups these SAMS represent and IF these groups have Alateen attending weekly meetings. Once all the certification is completed I will be on a journey to contact each Alateen Group and the SAMs to complete my little survey. I will be posting such a survey at coordinators corner next posting. Please encourage your SAMs to go there. This information is important to ALL of Ontario South to help make Alateen available everywhere in our very large Area! As Coordinator I would like to bring Alateen closer together.

I had a conversation with an Alateen at the recent Conference. I had met her couple of years ago. We exchanged HUGS, she became a little teary eyed, yet she seemed comforted. She made this comment, " I can't believe there are SO many Alateen here today, in this meeting. I am often the only Alateen in my group every week sometimes there maybe one other. I am so grateful I got to experience this today!"

Together we can make it!

Area World Service Committee 2012

Archivist Report

Hello All,

Archives has been very quiet the first part of the year, so quiet I originally did not have anything to report and was hoping that "something" would happen before the end of May. After sharing this thought with our Area Secretary, well, that "something" started to happen. No less than twelve hours after Jean's response, I received an e-mail asking me if I was the right person to contact and that this particular group had some sharings on not one, but two members, for the Area Memory Book. I have since received them via snail mail and enjoyed reading the love and gratitude the members have for those who have gone before us.

District One has four long time member interviews on the go! So now it is time for me to get a new page set up for the website to track the Area Challenge I have put out earlier in the year. Do you know how many long time member interviews your district has done? If you are aware what has been done, or is in the process, please let me know so I can add this information to the website page.

For all District Representatives who have a District Archivist, I would appreciate it if you would please bring with you their contact information to AWSC, or send it before hand via e-mail.

I also traveled up to Parry Sound with a carload of members, for our District One Al-Anon Day on May 5th that was combined with the group's 60th anniversary! Yes, sixty years of continuous Al-Anon for Riverside Georgian Al-Anon. There was a table set up for their group archives and there was a lot of traffic at that end of the room and what awesome reading that was. They also had a celebration to honoured five of the original members, four were present and one could not attend. Sixty years, just blows me away, and those long time members are just as active as ever in Al-Anon service.

Well, so much for thinking I had nothing to report.....

AREA ALATEEN PROCESS PERSON

In this report, I will highlight the activities of the first four months of my AAPP term.

The Annual Recertification for SAMs is now complete. A breakdown of the results follows:

-130 previous SAMs recertified.

-23 SAMs retired.

-7 new SAMs certified and there are several more in process.

This means we have 137 certified SAMs at present.

Police Record Checks are now required every three years (year two of the AAPP term) in order to recertify as a SAM. Therefore, 2013 will be our really busy year. Reminders will be sent out in November to get this process started.

The WSO Annual Alateen Group Update is proceeding with 18 of the 33 Groups complete. There are 33 registered Alateen Groups in Ontario South. So far, one new group is in process and one group has been closed.

Ontario south must meet the annual Alateen Safety and Behavioural Requirements within the WSO time frame. I greatly appreciate the understanding and cooperation of the SAMs and District Representatives, as we work together to meet these WSO imposed deadlines.

The AAPP webpage has recently been constructed on the Ontario South website/Coordinators Corner. I will be adding updates from time to time. Your comments/questions are welcomed at aapp.ontariosouth@gmail.com

AWSC Report - GROUP RECORDS

Since I started in January I have received approximately 100 emails regarding changes for group information. I have also received a few very interesting email changes. Interesting because they include supposed changes for groups in New York , requests for group locations (from newcomers- looking for a meeting somewhere), requests from groups requesting changes made with no group name, WSO number or location of meeting. I have also had requests sent to my personal email account.

Unfortunately, I have also had a number of people sending me emails (not change forms) stating a new group has formed without important information such as day of the week for meeting, time of meeting, location of meeting etc. I have sent requests back to the source requesting the form be filled in or at least resend me an email with all the information necessary. Most of these requests have not been resent.

I am still learning new things along the way and it is an amazing sensation to join in a conference call with Valerie and Jennifer from the WSO and other group records coordinators from all over Canada and the US.

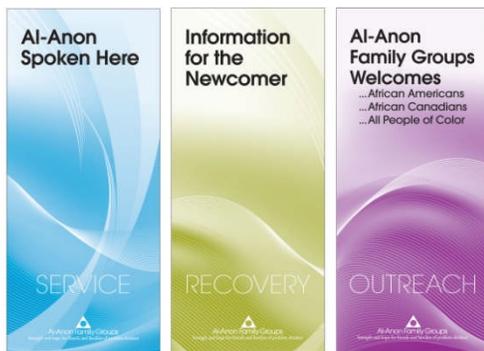
I was nervous to begin with however; I wanted to expand my service experience. Once I was accepted as the New Group Records Coordinator I realized that this is going to be a great journey that I am taking with my family and friends.

Literature AWSC Report

Hello Executive, Coordinators, District Reps, and friends:

Here's the latest update of literature news:

- **New Translations:** The Timely Reprint, *Parents of Alcoholics* (R-18), and the *Conflict Resolution* Wallet Card (S-71) are now also available in French (FR-18 and FS-71) and Spanish (SR-18 and SS-71).
- **Al-Anon Pamphlets Get a New Look:** A new design will be implemented for our pamphlets. It will appear one pamphlet at a time, as current stock is depleted. It may be several years before *all* of the pamphlets have this new look, but here is a preview:



- **How Al-Anon Works (B-32):** The Board of Trustees has extended the trial period for the soft cover edition of Al-Anon's basic book for another year at the \$5 US price. Please keep in mind that the intended purpose of this project is to provide an opportunity for groups and members to share this book more widely with newcomers or anyone looking for a clear and easy-to-understand introduction to the Al-Anon program.
- **Sharings Needed:** Please encourage members to submit sharings about how their group is using the new soft cover *How Al-Anon Works* (B-32) to share our program with newcomers. We need them by June 15th for possible inclusion in a future "CAL Corner" in *The Forum*.

I look forward to seeing old friends and meeting new ones at AWSC 2012 and will share more updates with you at the time of my verbal report.

God Bless

May 2012 AWSC Report

Open Lines

Hello fellow Al-Anon members,

With the February issue of Open Lines we have 53 personal subscriptions and 387 group copies distributed. We also sent the AWSC list electronically.

After hearing feedback here at AWSC I can look at what needs to be changed or if indeed any changes need to be made.

Money..... Currently it is costing \$1.25 to mail each issue unless I am able to keep it under 6 pages which seems to be hard to do at times. If we look at the postage + copying + the cost of envelopes our current fee structure does not even come close to meeting the basic costs. Currently per year the fee is \$4.50 and this decreases to \$4.00 on a 2 year subscription for personal subscriptions. This is simply information for now but maybe we should keep this in mind and consider the rates for the future after the electronic delivery is implemented. The more electronic is used the lesser the cost to OSA.

I want to thank our website coordinator for helping me to set up the email system. It was a journey but I think we have it under control.

Thank you for allowing me to be of service to you and keep those service announcements coming. Please include service reports as well not just event notices.

PUBLIC OUTREACH

After a lot of thought about public outreach, I have come to look at public outreach like a tree the roots are our groups and our fellowship. As such I have started a mini campaign to improve our image with our brother fellowship AA. By presenting groups that I go to with a framed copy of the "A Resolution of Gratitude" literature. It was created on April 24 1969 and I think after having presented two of these to groups in my area that most AA's are unaware of this stunning little piece of literature. I am going to be sending out a copy to all of the districts in the hopes that they can find it in their budgets to pass these little reminders on to the AA groups in their area, in the hopes that they will allow us to post at least meeting lists and phone numbers for information at their meetings with impunity. I think this pleasant little reminder will go a long way in mending the bridge between AA and Al-Anon that has somehow been forgotten by our brother fellowship.

I am still trying to figure out which areas have outreach coordinators or programs going so if you do not please send me an e-mail so I can place this information in my files and then I do not expect any reports from your district. Of course this is always subject to change. I urge ALL districts to get involved with public outreach, even if it is only in a very small way. The rewards of the program through public outreach are incredible! Remember that you could be the only example of this wonderful program a person in need may see!

Yours Humbly and lovingly in Service
Bekaade Zhagtood mno Bmaadzid // Peace Love and Good Health

WEBSITE COORDINATOR

It's been a very busy couple of months in the Ontario South Website. A lot of changes, new events, some new pages, updates...Again I would like say thank you for all the suggestions on how to make the website a better place. All your suggestions are taken and looked at and if anything needs changing or updated it is done as quickly as I can. There are a lot of events that are coming up and all I ask is that you send your events at least one week before the event. There is also a process that makes it easier for me to post the event. There is an events form on the website that needs to be filled out and once it is filled out the completed form gets sent automatically to me. We want to hear about your event, it is always nice for Ontario to celebrate with you at your event.

Another issue I wanted to bring out is the meeting changes that are done online. I DO NOT make the meetings changes manually online. If there is a change in meeting time, address, new meetings, closed meetings...there is a group record change form that needs to be filled out. You can get this form on the website, from your District Rep. Once this form is filled out it is sent to WSO and to our Group Record Coordinator. Our Group Record Coordinator does the changes and then sends the changes to me where I post them online. If you send me an email about changes to be done in your group I will redirect you to fill out the form online or ask your DR for a group record change form.

All right now for how the website is doing. I am very happy about how many visitors we had in April 2012. In the month of April the website is seeing 7138 visitors which is a little higher from March which was 7026. So people are visiting the Ontario South Website more and more every month. The website hits a high average of visitors between 9am-11pm. The pages mostly visited were meetings at 12.25%. The rest pages visited are events, contacts, literature. Keep telling people about our website we are doing great!!! Looking forward to meeting everyone at AWSC!!!